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LETTER DATED 31 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government and further to my letter dated 28 March 1991, I have the honour to inform you that aircraft of the United States Air Force have continued to commit the following violations:

I. During the evening of 28 March 1991, United States aircraft dropped fire balls as a jamming device in some areas of Baghdad and the nearby towns, as follows:

1. At 2003 hours in the Sawirah area;

2. At 2005 hours in the area of Jabbaniyah, Haswa and the express highway;

3. At 2020 hours in the area of Ridwaniyah and Wishash;

4. At 2127 hours in the area of Yusufiyah and Sawirah.

The altitudes of the aircraft were estimated at 2,000 metres.

We cannot find any justification for this provocative action given the cease-fire and the position of full adherence to the cease-fire adopted by our air defences, unless the Americans wish to proceed with more provocation, exhausting the patience of the Iraqis, or they wish to see a puppet come up with a machinated operation in response to these actions in order that they may find a new pretext for armed aggression. Otherwise, why are these fire balls being dropped on air defences for jamming purposes? This is in addition to the alarm and anxiety caused by these provocations to Muslim Iraqis fasting in the blessed month of Ramadan.

II.

1. On 29 March 1991, the United States air activity in the skies of Iraq totalled 97 sorties distributed over 46 formations.

2. The altitude of the aircraft ranged between 3.5 and 7 kilometres and the speed between 600 and 720 kilometres per hour.

3. The aggressor aircraft were of the F.16, F.15 and F.14 types.

4. The activity of the aggressor aircraft was concentrated over the city of Baghdad and to the east of it and over the Tharthar area and kilometre 160, the enemy's purpose being reconnaissance, observation and provocation.

III.

1. On 30 March 1991, the United States-Saudi Arabian air activity totalled 74 sorties distributed over 33 formations, at a speed of 600 to 720 kilometres and at an altitude of 6 to 7.5 kilometres.

2. The aircraft were of the F.16 and F.15 types.

3. The air activity was concentrated over the area of Razazah, Abyad, the Tammuz air base and the city of Baghdad.

4. The air sorties constituted a detection and provocation operation, because at 2140 hours the aircraft, while passing over Baghdad, illuminated the Rashid base area, the eastern gate and the Republican Palace with three orange-coloured flares.

IV.

1. On 30/31 March 1991, the United States air activity totalled 92 sorties distributed over 43 formations, at a speed of 600 to 720 kilometres per hour and at an altitude of 3 to 7 kilometres.

2. The aggressor flights were concentrated over the areas of Baghdad, western and eastern Baghdad, the Tharthar area and kilometre 160, north of Diwaniyah. The purpose of the enemy flights was provocation and reconnaissance, since they passed over Baghdad a number of times flying at low altitude.

I request you to have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Abdul Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative